

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:33 pm on Monday, June 6, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter and Christine Wilen.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, Public Works Superintendent Brad Schrader and Assistant City Clerk Monique Castillo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mary Carlson, 2004 15th Avenue, Sterling addressed the council regarding noise ordinances and asked the council consider making a change to the ordinance that would have contractors doing business after 9:00 am on weekends.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of May 16, 2016
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,534,343.83
- C) Kiwanis of Sterling to hold a bucket brigade on June 11, 2016
- D) Sterling Legion Auxiliary to hold a bucket brigade on June 25, 2016
- E) Partial Pay Request #4 for Sixth and Eighth Avenue Sewer Work to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$53,412.36
- F) Partial Pay Request #1 to Twin City Construction for ADA Sidewalk Improvements in the amount of \$40,893.74
- G) Partial Pay Request #2 for Martin and Company for Sixth Avenue Roadway and Sanitary Sewer Project in the amount of \$110,502.54
- H) Contract with Rock Falls for Chief Gary Cook

The motion was seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring June 11, 2016 as American Cancer Society Relay for Life Day in Whiteside County. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, Wilen and Conklin. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve the Proclamation designating June 18, 2016 as the official Juneteenth Celebration in the City of Sterling. The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting Ayes – Aldermen Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, Wilen, Conklin and Elston. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2016-6-13** Adoption of the Whiteside County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The motion was seconded by Martin. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Stauter, Wilen, Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard and Martin. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook explained there is currently no plan of action in place regarding the Whiteside County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Should the City be hit with a natural disaster, we would not qualify for federal funding as was the case with Harrisburg, IL when a tornado hit.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to Award the Bid to reconstruct the First Avenue sidewalk in the 300 block of First Avenue for ADA compliance to O'Brien Civil Works from Polo in the amount of \$23,347.04. The motion was seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Wilen, Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Martin and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve an ITEP Grant Application for a pedestrian/bicycle facility along the East Second Street Corridor. The motion was seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard noted we applied for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant in 2012. This grant will fund a project to create a bike path that connects Martin's Landing to downtown Sterling and the Route 40 pedestrian pathway.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to approve the Scot of Work Change Order from Cardno for the Riverfront Project. The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, Wilen and Conklin. Nays – None. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding the timeline, financing and Best Cob. Manager Shumard noted the funds are locked in and the changes are payable through the grant. The GSDC board has discussed selling or destroying the building that houses Best Cob, this would require council action. Per contract, the lease with Best Cob will automatically renew in August and we must allow for a 60-day notification to vacate if selling or destroying is the favorable option.

There was a discussion regarding establishments commonly referred to as gaming parlors and the quantity of liquor licenses available in the City Code. Manager Shumard introduced Attorney Tom Sanders with Ward, Murray, Pace and Johnson. Sanders agreed to answer questions regarding this topic.

Alderman Elston expressed concern with the change process. Currently code states 60% of revenue must be from liquor/food sales to be a bar. How many gaming parlors do we want to allow in the downtown. Manager Shumard stated we do not have the authority to regulate the number of gaming parlors. Sanders confirmed stating since Sterling has a non-home rule status, there is not a lot of "wiggle room"

Alderman Martin expressed his concern about why we would change when new businesses applying are in compliance. They have paid the fees and passed background checks. He finds it hard to say no or change the code now to restrict the number of licenses.

Heath Warner, owner of Warner's MVP, addressed the council about his new business venture. His vision is to open a sports bar to offer a place for local residents to watch their children's sporting events. If Newman High School has an away game scheduled, or Sterling High School has a game scheduled and the weather is uncooperative, Warner will broadcast the events at his establishment so the parents/local fans can enjoy the game. Warner noted the intent for his establishment is not to open a gaming parlor. The gaming machines are simply an avenue of revenue to help him fund his business.

There was a brief discussion regarding several issues with the building Warner plans to have his business. Warner stated he is quite invested in this project and has been working diligently with the City and property owner to bring the building up to code and in compliance with ADA requirements.

Mayor Lee thanked Warner for explaining his vision and welcomed his new business to the downtown area.

There was general consensus to leave the number of liquor licenses as is.

Brad Schrader was happy to report we officially have a contract to accept E-Waste, by appointment. There will be a press release later this week.

Chief Morgan reported the hiring of 1 officer. June 18th is the next test. 55 applications have been received to date, which is double from last time.

Alderman Conklin is excited for Warner's MVP Lounge he thinks this will be a great addition to the downtown.

Alderman Elston happily reported there were 300-400 kids in attendance for the Movies in the Park, which had to be moved to the Sterling Theatre due to the weather. She too expressed her excited for Warner's MVP Lounge in the downtown.

Alderman Stauter reported countless calls regarding the trouble residents are having in dealing with Comcast. Conklin stated his store front has information regarding Comcast and council is welcome to send residences his way with Comcast issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Monique Castillo
Assistant City Clerk